

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4051

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8895

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJ: FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY'S FEBRUARY & JUNE LATIN AMERICAN TRIPS

REF: STATE 180174; CARACAS 8324

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON ITEMS TAKEN UP BY SECRETARY, KEYED TO REFTEL.

A. CLOSER COOPERATION ON ENERGY RESEARCH - SR. PASQUALI, THE DIRECTOR OF BASIC INDUSTRIES OF THE VENEZUELAN COUNCIL FOR NUCLEAR MATTERS (CONAN) IS LEAVING FOR THE U.S. ON JULY 24 TO COMPLETE THE FIRST ROUND OF EXPLORATORY VISITS WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO CLOSER COOPERATION ON ENERGY RESEARCH MATTERS. WHILE AN ADDITIONAL VISIT FOR CONAN SECRETARY GENERAL TABORDA IS PLANNED, A SERIOUS FAMILY PROBLEM INVOLVING TABORDA, WHO IS OUR PRINCIPAL CONTACT, HAS KEPT HIM FROM FOCUSING AS QUICKLY AS WE WOULD LIKE ON EXPLORING VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR A SECOND STEP IN COOPERATION IN THE ENERGY RESEARCH FIELD. HOPEFULLY, TABORDA WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT THE U.S. LATER THIS YEAR AND WE CAN MOVE AHEAD WITH THIS PROGRAM.

B. BILATERAL NARCOTICS AGREEMENT - IN ADDITION TO REASONS CITED REFTEL, EMBASSY HAS ALSO BEEN AWAITING ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR VAKY PRIOR TO MAKING FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SIGNING.

C. LATIN AMERICAN FOOD RESEARCH CENTER - CONCUR.

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D. EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING - SERIOUS STRIKES BY TEACHERS AND OVERSEAS COMMITMENTS OF SENIOR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS HAVE DELAYED THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION'S FINAL DECISION ON THE FIRST FIELD OF CONCENTRATION UNDER THE US-VENEZUELAN EDUCATIONAL AGREEMENT. WE ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH LEADING OFFICIALS AND HOPE TO HAVE A DECISION IN THE NEAR FUTURE WHICH WILL PERMIT US TO PROCEED WITH THE SELECTION OF U.S. EXPERTS FOR THE FIRST PROJECT WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL PROBABLY BE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN EDUCATION.

E. FMS CREDITS - CONCUR.

F. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT - CONCUR.

G. STATE VISIT - CHARGE LEARNED TODAY (JULY 22) FROM GOV MINISTRY OF INTERIOR THAT TO DATE THE TIMING OF PRESIDENT PEREZ'S VISIT TO US HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED.

H. AFRICAN LETTER - CONCUR.

I. REPORTED US NOTE ON OWNES-ILLINOIS - WE HAVE NO INFORMATION, AS NOTED REFTEL, ABOUT A NOTE DELIVERED JUNE 4 ON THIS SUBJECT. ANY MISUNDERSTANDING REGARDING HANDLING OF NIEHOUS CASE HAS BEEN LAID TO REST FOLLOWING CHARGE'S CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR LEPAGE JULY 7. (CARACAS 8324).
ASENCIO

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - MR. TANNER.

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